

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

AMERICAN GUARDIAN WARRANTY )  
SERVICES, INC., )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. ) No. 15cv2762  
BERKSHIRE FLEET SERVICES, )  
THE CARRBRIDGE BERKSHIRE GROUP, INC. )  
Defendants. )

## **COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES, the Plaintiff, AMERICAN GUARDIAN WARRANTY SERVICES, INC., by its attorneys, KONICEK & DILLON P.C., and complains against Defendants, BERKSHIRE FLEET SERVICES and THE CARRBRIDGE BERKSHIRE GROUP, INC., as follows:

1. Plaintiff American Guardian Warranty Services, Inc. (hereinafter “American  
Guardian”) brings this complaint against defendants, Berkshire Fleet Services and The  
Carrbridge Berkshire Group (collectively “Berkshire Fleet”), for defendants’ infringement and  
dilution of American Guardian’s Registered Mark and common law rights, and unfair  
competition and deceptive trade practices. For its complaint against defendant, American  
Guardian alleges as follows:

## **NATURE OF THE CASE**

2. This is an action for trademark infringement, unfair competition and dilution pursuant to the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §1125(a); dilution pursuant to the Illinois Trademark

Registration and Protection Act, 765 ILCS §1036/65; consumer fraud pursuant to the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. §505/1; and deceptive trade practices under the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat §510/1.

3. Despite knowledge of American Guardian's extensive use and substantial rights in the COMPASS trademark, defendants have attempted to use confusingly similar terms in connection with similar services in competition with American Guardian and in violation of American Guardian's intellectual property rights.

4. Because of the immediate and irreparable harm caused by defendants' improper use of American Guardian's trademark, American Guardian seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, damages for defendants' illegal and unauthorized acts, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1338(a) and (b) (patent, copyright, trademark and unfair competition). This Court has jurisdiction over American Guardian's related Illinois claim under 28 U.S.C. §1367 (supplemental jurisdiction).

6. Jurisdiction can also be based upon the diverse citizenship of the parties in that the Plaintiff is a citizen of Illinois and the Defendants are citizens of North Carolina and Delaware. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs.

7. Venue is proper because the majority of the acts complained of took place and originated in this District and the Defendants do business in this District by providing an internet website and sales that have a substantial effect on United States commerce in this district.

## PARTIES

8. Plaintiff, American Guardian, is and was at all times relevant hereto, a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Illinois, having its principal place of business in the State of Illinois.

9. American Guardian is the registered owner of the trademark in question.

10. Upon information and belief, defendant, Berkshire Fleet Services, is a North Carolina corporation and was, at all times relevant, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Carrbridge Berkshire Group, Inc., a Delaware Corporation.

11. At all times relevant, Berkshire Fleet conducted business, acquired clients, or sold vehicle service agreements through interstate commerce, including but not limited to Illinois.

## BACKGROUND FACTS

12. On August 21, 2007, American Guardian registered the trademark known as “Compass Protection Plan”. (See **Exhibit A**, Compass Protection Registration).

13. The Compass Protection Plan trademark was known as a design plus words, letters, and/or numbers. It consists of a half maritime compass that encapsulates the “C” in the word Compass. (**Ex. A**).

14. The Compass Protection Plan is used by American Guardian in connection with providing, administering and selling vehicle service contracts and extended vehicular warranties.

15. The Compass Protection Plan trademark has been continuously and prominently displayed and used for years in order to establish a strong reputation for quality products.

16. On December 9, 2014, American Guardian registered the trademark known as **compass**, which contains a half circle over the mark and arrow above the “p”. (**Ex. A**).

17. The **compass** trademark was known as a design plus words, letters and symbols. The **compass** trademark is unique.

18. American Guardian has invested substantial time, effort, and expense in promoting and marketing the Compass Protection Plan and the **compass** mark in connection with its services in this district.

19. As a result of the continuous advertising over many years, the Compass Protection Plan and **compass** mark have become, through public recognition, established as an asset of substantial value symbolizing the quality and type of service provided by American Guardian.

#### **DEFENDANTS' UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE TRADEMARK**

20. American Guardian has never authorized, licensed, or otherwise permitted the defendants to use the Compass mark, or any confusingly similar variation thereof.

21. Without authorization, license or authority from American Guardian, defendants have begun using the Compass mark and have marketed and advertised the confusingly similar Compass trademark on its website in connection with its services of “CompassOne”. ([www.compassonetruck.com](http://www.compassonetruck.com)); (See **Exhibit B**, Defendant’s Website).

22. American Guardian advertises through the Compass Protection Plan and **compass** mark that it provides affordable and comprehensive coverage and that it protects drivers across the country with the highest possible customer service standards.

23. The Public is likely to confuse the marks of Compass Protection Plan and CompassOne due to their similarity.

**DEFENDANTS' UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE TRADEMARK CREATES A LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION**

24. Defendants' unauthorized use of the Compass trademark, or similar variations thereof, in connection with its vehicular warranties is likely to mislead, deceive, and confuse the public. It is more than likely that consumers will conclude that defendants are affiliated with American Guardian.

25. Defendants' use of the registered trademark as pleaded here have and are likely to continue to dilute the value of the Compass trademark by diminishing the public association of the mark with American Guardian's and working on adverse effect upon the distinctiveness of the mark, thus creating a likelihood of injury to American Guardian's reputation.

26. As a result of these actions by the defendants, American Guardian has suffered and continues to suffer substantial damages and irreparable injury. American Guardian has no adequate remedy at law and unless defendants are restrained and enjoined by the Court, said acts will be continued and continue to cause damage and irreparable injury to American Guardian and American Guardian's business. Because of the threatened continuation of loss of customers and sales, American Guardian cannot ascertain the precise amount of its damages at this time.

**COUNT I  
FEDERAL TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT VIOLATION OF SECTION 43(a)  
OF THE LANHAM ACT**

27. American Guardian claims violation of §43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a) based on federal trademark infringement. American Guardian repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1-26 as though fully set forth herein.

28. Defendant's unauthorized use of the Compass mark, or approximations or simulations thereof, such as infringing service mark CompassOne (with similar if not identical

nautical compass logo) in interstate commerce has caused and is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception as to source, association or sponsorship with American Guardian's Compass mark.

29. American Guardian has been and is being damaged by defendants' trademark infringement and will continue to be damaged unless defendants are enjoined by this Court.

**COUNT II**  
**FEDERAL UNFAIR COMPETITION VIOLATION OF SECTION 43(a) OF THE**  
**LANHAM ACT**

30. American Guardian alleges federal unfair competition in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. 1125(a). American Guardian repeats and re-alleges the allegations of paragraphs 1-29 as though fully set forth herein.

31. Defendants' adoption and use of the Compass mark, or approximations or simulations as pleaded constitutes use of a false designation of origin or a false representation, which wrongfully and falsely designates, describes or represents the origins of defendants' services and business as originating from or being in connection with American Guardian when this is not the case, and thereby constitute a false description or representation used in interstate commerce.

32. American Guardian has been and is being damaged by such violation and has no adequate remedy at law. Defendants' unlawful and willful conduct will continue to damage American Guardian unless enjoined by this Court.

**COUNT III**  
**FEDERAL DILUTION VIOLATION OF SECTION 43(c) OF THE LANHAM ACT**

33. American Guardian alleges federal dilution in violation of Section 43(c) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c). American Guardian repeats and re-alleges the allegations of paragraphs 1-32 above as though fully set forth herein.

34. Defendants' adoption and use of the Compass mark, or approximations or simulations as pleaded constitutes uses in commerce of a mark after such mark has become recognized or famous, and causes dilution of the distinctive mark.

35. American Guardian has been and is being damaged by such violation and has no adequate remedy at law. Defendants' unlawful and willful conduct will continue to damage American Guardian unless enjoined by this Court.

**COUNT IV**  
**VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS UNIFORM DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT**

36. American Guardian hereby alleges deceptive trade practice violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. § 510/1. American Guardian repeats and re-alleges the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 35 above, as though fully set forth herein.

37. The Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. § 510/1 provides that a person engages in deceptive trade practices when, *inter alia*, he "(1) passes off goods or services as those of another; ... (3) causes likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with or certification by another;" and that to prevail in an action under this Act, "a plaintiff need not prove competition between the parties or actual confusion or misunderstanding."

38. Defendants' adoption and use of the Compass mark, or approximations or simulations trades on the reputation of Compass Protection with the intention of deceiving the

public into believing that defendants and American Guardian are associated in violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. § 510/1 *et seq.*

39. American Guardian has been and is being damaged by such violation and has no adequate remedy at law. Defendants' unlawful and willful conduct will continue to damage American Guardian unless enjoined by this Court.

40. Based on defendants' previous and continuing knowledge of American Guardian's Registered Mark and continued activities, defendants' violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act is willful.

**COUNT V**  
**VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS CONSUMER FRAUD AND DECEPTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT**

41. American Guardian alleges deceptive trade practice violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. § 505/1, *et seq.* Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 40 above, as though fully set forth herein.

42. The Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. Section 505/1, *et seq.*, makes "the use or employment of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation or the concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact, with intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact, or the use or employment of any practice described in Section 2 of the "Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act" unlawful, regardless of "whether any person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby." 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. § 505/2.

43. Defendants' use of the Compass mark, or approximations or simulations, with the intention of misleading or deceiving the public into believing that defendants and plaintiff are

associated is in violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 Ill.Comp.Stat. Section 505/1-12.

44. American Guardian has been and is being damaged by such violations and has no adequate remedy at law. Defendants' unlawful and willful conduct will continue to damage American Guardian unless enjoined by this Court.

45. Based on defendants' previous and continuing knowledge of American Guardian's Registered Mark and continued activities, defendants' violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act is willful.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff American Guardian, demands:

1. That defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, licensees, attorneys, successors, related companies, parent companies, and assigns, and all those in active concert or participation with them, be preliminarily and thereafter permanently enjoined and restrained from using the Compass mark or any other similar mark such as Compass Warranty with the half nautical compass encapsulating the "C" or any other variation that gives rise to a likelihood of confusion, mistake or deception with respect to the Compass Protection mark.

2. That the Court declare and order accounting against defendants and plaintiff be awarded monetary relief in an amount to be fixed by the Court in its discretion as just, including:

- (a) All profits received by defendants from sales and revenues of any kind made as a result of their unlawful actions;
- (b) All damages sustained by American Guardian as a result of defendants' acts of infringement and unfair competition; and

(c) An order awarding compensatory, consequential and other damages, including pre-and post-judgment interest, suffered as a result of defendants' violations of 15 U.S.C. Section 1125(a).

3. That because of the exceptional nature of this case resulting from defendants' deliberate and willful infringement, this Court award American Guardian its reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 1117(a).

4. Any other relief as this Court may deem just.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Amir R. Tahmassebi  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Daniel F. Konicek (6205408)  
Amir R. Tahmassebi (6287787)  
KONICEK & DILLON, P.C.  
21 West State Street  
Geneva, IL 60134  
(630) 262-6955